



News



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Governor Markell declares January 18 – 23, 2010 to be Ag Week in Delaware **Program details available: <http://rec.udel.edu/AgWeek/home.htm>**

Governor Jack Markell has declared the week of January 18-23, 2010 to be Delaware Agriculture Week and urges all Delawareans to celebrate and understand Delaware's modern agricultural industry and to thank the hard working men and women of Delaware agriculture (See text of proclamation below).

The fifth annual Ag Week is sponsored by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware State University Cooperative Extension, and the Delaware Department of Agriculture. The sponsors and many partners will give the agricultural community an excellent opportunity to come together to share knowledge on a host of topics crucial to sustaining Delaware's vital agricultural industry. A weeklong series of workshops and sessions will be primarily held at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington. For general information, program details, and session/presentation locations regarding Delaware Ag Week check the Ag Week website (<http://rec.udel.edu/AgWeek/home.htm>) or contact Emmalea Ernest at (302) 856-7303 or emmalea@udel.edu.

Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture said, "I am really pleased to see Ag Week become a tradition in Delaware. Agriculture brings more than \$1 billion to Delaware's coffers. This is because our producers and our industry constantly search for and implement ways to improve their methods, to be better stewards of our natural resources, and to provide top quality produce, poultry, meats, and other agricultural products."

Kee continued, "The continued growth in participation since the first Ag Week in 2006 is a testament to the agricultural community's commitment to excellence. Last year we had more than 1500 participants."

Presenters will include local farmers, commodity boards/associations/councils, the agricultural industry, agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state agencies, local and regional universities (from Delaware, Maryland, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Virginia), NASA, and the Delaware Geological Survey.

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**STATEMENT
IN HONOR OF
DELAWARE AGRICULTURE**

***Whereas*, farmers and ranchers provide our food, our clothing, our shelter, and many other products vital to our health and well-being; and**

***Whereas*, agriculture is Delaware's number one and most vital industry that adds more than \$1 billion to the state's economy each year and provides thousands of jobs throughout the farm and food chain; and**

***Whereas*, Delaware's agricultural heritage is a celebration of its food, its land, and its people and is essential to Delaware's quality of life;**

***Whereas*, Agriculture is the major land use in Delaware; and**

***Whereas*, people in agriculture are conscientious stewards of the land, and continue to seek new methods to maintain harmony with the environment; and**

***Whereas*, on-going education and sharing of knowledge will sustain and empower Delaware's farmers and the agricultural community; and**

***Whereas*, the Delaware Department of Agriculture, the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, the Delaware State University Cooperative Extension, the Delaware Soybean Board, the Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association of Delaware, the Maryland/Delaware Forage Council, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Farm Service Agency, the Delaware Equine Council, the Delaware Standardbred Breeders Fund, the Delaware Nursery and Landscape Association, the Delmarva Forestry Seminar Planning Committee, the Delaware Organic Food and Farming Association, the USDA-Rural Development Agency, and the USDA Risk Management Agency are presenting educational conferences, workshops, seminars, and meetings for Delaware's farmers and the agricultural community during the week of January 18, 2010;**

Now therefore, We, Jack Markell, Governor, and Matt Denn, Lieutenant Governor, of the State of Delaware, do hereby recognize the importance of Delaware agriculture, its rich heritage, the role it plays in the daily lives of all Delawareans, and in appreciation of our farmers and ranchers, we declare the week of January 18 – 23, 2010 as:

Agriculture Week

in the State of Delaware; and we urge all Delawareans to celebrate and understand Delaware's modern agricultural industry, and to thank the hard working men and women of Delaware agriculture.

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